GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:871
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2006
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
Chatterjee Shri Santasri;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether an Act has been passed for building construction workers;

(b) If so, the names of the States that have notified the same so far;

(c) The response of other States thereto;

(d) Whether the Union Government has appointed Arjun Seth Committee to look into the problems of unorganised workers including building construction workers;

(e) If so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(f) If so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which it is likely to be submitted; and

(g) The time by which the building construction workers are likely to be provided minimum wages and other facilities under the law?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) to (c): Yes Sir, in order to regulate service conditions and to provide welfare measures etc. to workers engaged in construction activities, the Government have enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers

(Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. Responsibilities for implementation of the Act lies with the Central and State/UT Governments in the establishments falling in the Central and State sphere respectively. The Act is being implemented in the State of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Uttranchal, Delhi and Pondicherry. Government of Tamilnadu have been implementing their own Act for the building construction workers. The remaining States/UT Governments have reported that State Rules under the Act, setting up of State Building and Other Construction Welfare Board and procedures for implementation of the Act are under finalisation.

(d) to (f): Yes Sir, the National Commission for Enterprise in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sengupta has submitted its report to the Government on the social security for the unorganised sector workers in May, 2006. The recommendations amongst others include a social security scheme for the unorganised workers, rates of contribution of workers/ employers and the Central and the State Governments and the package of benefits including health insurance, maternity benefit, insurance to cover natural and accidental death, old age pension to Below Poverty Line (BPL) workers above the age of 60 years and Provident Fund for Above Poverty Line (APL) workers etc.

(g) :Construction workers are entitled for minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 being implemented by the appropriate Governments. States/ UTs which have not yet notified the Building and Other Construction Workers

(Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, as reported are at various stages of adoption and implementation of the Act. The building and other construction workers will be availing welfare measures after these State/ UTs commence implementation of the Act.